

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 28, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claim and specification, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the title of the invention. Claims 1-29 are pending. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Applicants have added new claims 15-29. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The title of the invention was objected to as not being descriptive of the invention. The title has been amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuka (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,950) in view of Widegren (WO 97/34437). The Office Action alleged that Otsuka discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention, with the exception of a private communication which is a wireless communication network. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to teach, suggest or disclose the features of the claimed invention. Therefore, the rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the reasons which follow.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-3 are dependent, recites an access control system for a wireless telecommunications system. The access control system comprises a first base station, a second base station, a data link and a first site link access control unit. The first base station serves a first site and is operable as part of a first wireless telecommunications network. The second base station serves a second site and is operable as part of a second wireless telecommunications network. The first and second wireless telecommunications networks are connected together and the first and second sites being physically separate, whereby a call can be connected between the first base station and the second base station via the first wireless telecommunications network and the second wireless telecommunications network. In the data link, use is restricted between the first network and the second network, whereby a call may be connected between the first network and the second network. The first site link access control unit comprises a database for storing identities of wireless terminals at the second site for permitting calls to such terminals made at the first site to be routed from the first site to the second site over the data link.

Claim 4, upon which claims 5-14 are dependent, recites an access control system for a wireless telecommunications system. The access control system comprises a first base station, a second base station, a data link and a first site access control unit. The first base station and the first site access control unit store access information for wireless terminals permitting such terminals to make calls at the first site by means of the first base station. The first base station serves a first site and is operable as part of a first

wireless telecommunications network. The second base station and a second site access control unit store access information for wireless terminals permitting such terminals to make calls at the second site by means of the second base station. The second base station serves a second site and is operable as part of a second wireless telecommunications network. The first and second wireless telecommunications networks are connected together and the first and second sites being physically separate. In the data link, use is restricted between the first site access control unit and the second site access control unit, whereby data may be transferred between the first site access control unit and the second site access control unit. The first site access control unit comprises a database for storing information for identifying the identities of wireless terminals whose access information is stored by the second site access control unit, whereby the first site access control unit can access the second site access control unit by means of the data link in order to permit such terminals to make calls at the first site by means of the first base station and to permit calls to be routed from the first site to the second site over the data link.

One advantage provided by the claimed features is that the invention provides a system and method for internal roaming which allows subscribers to use an intranet when visiting different sites belonging to the same company and to make calls from their own site to other company sites. Another advantage of the invention is that calls routed over a data link is likely to encounter less traffic than those calls transmitted over an external link. Therefore, the data transmissions according to the present invention may be

performed in a quicker and efficient manner. These advantages are not all inclusive but merely exemplars of some of the benefits of the invention.

Applicants submit that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the elements of the invention as set forth in claims 1-14, and thereby fails to provide the critical and nonobvious advantages that are provided by the invention. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. There must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination must be found in the prior art, and not be based on Applicants' disclosure. See M.P.E.P. §§ 2143.01 and 2143.03.

Otsuka discloses a private communications network system that allows a mobile station to be used in a different private communications network than that in which it is registered, by authenticating the mobile station outside of its home private communication network. When a mobile station 17 requests location registration in a private communications network 2 in which the mobile station 17 is not registered, a control unit 22 of a PBX 21 in the private communications network 2 requests a network common data management unit 3 to send group data which is used to identify a private communications network 1 in which the mobile station 17 is registered. Control unit 22 then requests a PBX 11 in a private communications network 1 to send subscriber data 33 of the mobile station 17. The mobile station 17 is authenticated in the private

communications network 2 by the subscriber data 33 sent from its home private communications network 1, whereafter the mobile station 17 can make calls from or can receive incoming calls in the private communications network 2. Billing data for calls the mobile station has made in the private communications network 2 is transferred and stored in the home network common data management unit 3 on a group basis.

Widegren discloses a mobile telecommunication network having an integrated wireless office system. The wireless office system is integrated into both a private telephony network (PTN) and a public land mobile network (PLMN) which includes a public cellular system.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Otsuka and Widegren, taken in combination or alone, do not render the present invention obvious because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. For instance, the cited references fails to disclose or suggest, at least, "a data link of which use is restricted between the first network and the second network, whereby a call may be connected between the first wireless telecommunications network to a second wireless telecommunications network." The present invention discloses, in one embodiment as discussed on page 9 – page 10, that a company's telecommunication system may be distributed so as to be physically located in two or more separate office sites of the company. For example, these sites may be in two or more different countries. The invention allows the subscribers in one network to roam to another network and still receive support for internal roaming and for conducting calls. In the present invention, a

direct link between the two sites is provided. During operation, a Mobile Telephone Server (MTS) is responsible for controlling access to the intranet, by using information obtained from the Intranet Location Register (ILR). The ILR is managed by the home GSM network operator and resides via a Mobile Application Part (MAP) interface, namely the Home Location Register (HLR) and Visitor Location Register (VLR). The HLR and VLR hold all the location information for all subscribers. The HLR is a database which contains all the data concerning the access capabilities of the subscribers of the site with which it is associated, and services to which they are entitled. The HLR also provides Mobile Switching Center (MSCs) associated with other sites with similar information to allow the subscriber to receive calls whilst visiting another site. The VLR stores subscriber information for all mobile phone which enters its area of coverage, which allow the MSC to set up calls to and from such phones. When a mobile phone enters its area, the subscriber data is interrogated and can be added to the VLR, so that the VLR contains the address of the subscriber's HLR. Once the setup process has been completed, calls made by a subscriber having a mobile phone and temporarily visiting another network are routed directly via the direct link.

However, Otsuka fails to disclose or suggest the feature of a call being connected between the first network and the second network (over the data link) and the feature of permitting calls to terminals whose identities are stored at the second site to be made at the first site and routed from the first site to the second site over the data link. Instead, Otsuka discloses that subscriber group data can be transmitted to identify a private

communications network in which the mobile station is registered and to collect billing information. (Otsuka, Abstract and col. 7, lines 32-46. Otsuka discloses that in column 5, lines 48-50 that subscriber data is transferred over the link 4, and further describes in column 6, lines 25-27 and 40-56 that a terminal that has roamed can make and receive calls. However, there is no disclosure of the ability of such a terminal to make calls to the other site by means of the data link. There is no mention or suggestion, in Otsuka, of calls being connected over the data link. The situation in Otsuka appears to be that of a standard roaming situation in which calls made to or from such a terminal will be routed via a normal external telecommunications system.

The Office Action relies upon Widegren to allegedly cure the deficiencies of Otsuka. However, Widegren suffers from the same shortcomings as Widegren. In particular, Widegren fails to disclose or suggest a data link of which use is restricted between a first network being a first wireless telecommunications network and a second network being a second wireless telecommunications network. Widegren merely discloses a wireless office system and a public land mobile network (PLMN). Widegren discloses the interaction between a wireless office system and a PLMN. Widegren in no way addresses communications between two networks of first and second sites but concentrates on the interaction between a private network and a public network. Thus, Widegren teaches away from the claimed invention in that it concentrates on routing calls from an office network to an external part of a network, which is in direct conflict with the claimed invention which provides "a data link of which use is restricted between the

first network being a wireless telecommunications system and a second network being a wireless system” for allowing subscribers to make internal calls while roaming to other networks.

For at least these reasons, the combination of Otsuka in view of Widegren fails to render obvious the claimed invention because each and every element of independent claims 1 and 4.

In addition, claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and claims 5-14 depends from claim 4 and are therefore allowable at least for the reasons that claims 1 and 4 are allowable, respectively, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

CONCLUSION

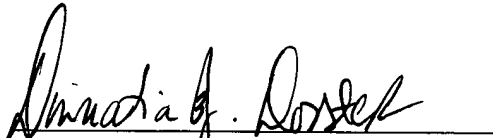
Claims 1-29 are pending. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Applicants have added new claims 15-29. Applicants submit that Otsuka and Widegren, taken in combination or alone, fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of a validation node as discussed above. Thus, Applicants submit that certain clear and important distinctions exist between the cited prior art and the claimed invention. Applicants submit that these distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claims of the invention unanticipated by and unobvious in view of the prior art. It is therefore requested that claims 1-29 be found allowable, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by

telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Revocation and New Power of Attorney
Petition for Extension of Time